

1. Apologies for absence

No Apologies for absence.

2. Confirmation of 2018 AGM minutes of meeting

Proposer: Andy Robinson, Seconder: Andy Willcocks, minutes approved by unanimous vote.

3. Chairman's Report

Derian Scott:

- Nationals attendance is up in 2019 following disappointing numbers in 2018, probably due to a strong attendance at the Worlds in Carnac.
- Local membership scheme introduced last year seems popular.
- Big thanks to all committee members (Steve Goacher, Dave Hall, Simon Benson, Ian Castle, Andy Robinson and Nick Hurst) for all their hard work.
- Looking to improve communications: will re-introduce email as not everyone is on social media.
- Looking for people in the fleet to help with doing event write-ups and also help arrange open meetings with their local club.

Steve Goacher:

- Building a new website. The goal is to keep the site simple and use great images of Fireball sailing. The new site will also aid communications
- Old site will continue for some time as it contains a huge archive of results and articles.

Simon Benson:

- Upcoming Nationals venues:
 - 2020 WPNSA
 - 2021 Abersoch
 - 2022 TBC
 - 2023 Hayling

4. Treasurers Report

Ian Castle:

- 2018 accounts show a loss: primarily due to expenditure carry over from 2018.
- Membership is up in 2019
- Local membership is popular: 26 members (but only 8 new members, so not ideal for class revenue).
- Dinghy show – RYA costs have crept up.

Proposer: Ricky Spring, Seconder Nick Rees; report approved by unanimous vote.

5. Election of Committee Members – Help needed with organising 2020 Fixtures and with communications

Committee Members re-elected by unanimous vote.

6. Membership classifications and subscription rates

Derian: proposed fees continue unchanged (currently full = £30, junior = £20 and local = £8)

Martin Lewis: Asked the committee to consider introducing a family membership? Ian Castle commented that there had been this category in the past, but it would need to be limited to a single boat and it wouldn't cover National or International events.

Derian: Junior membership is now available to anyone under 26 (previously under 21).

7. Any other business

a. Future Nationals – duration; sharing venue

A show of hands indicated that the majority at the meeting felt that the 4 day nationals, with a 2 races per day, is a good format. No one spoke out against the use of this format.

Ian Dobson: suggested having a 1 week sailing event, with a social focus, later in the year if we have had a 4 day nationals early in the year.

Graham Slater suggested having a 4 day nationals in years where there is a major European event. Issue is that we don't know when the Europeans will be when we book our Nationals.

Simon Benson: Commented on the frustrations that our Nationals had clashed with the European championships: unfortunately, the UKFA needs to plan Nationals 3-5 years ahead and had this year's dates were set in advance of the Europeans. UKFA has co-ordinated directly with Ireland around the 2020 Worlds in Howth to prevent a similar problem next year.

Russell Thorne: Expressed frustration that FI has not got long term plans for events.

Ian Dobson: WPNSA good for sailing, but more challenging for socials. Simon Benson responded that UKFA is currently looking at socials and considering venues in Weymouth town. Barry Smith commented that a previous Nationals had a very good BBQ at a good pub on Portland. The committee will welcome suggestions about where to hold socials in Weymouth.

Richard Wagstaff: Commented that Simon Benson has been very proactive in organising Nationals and gave a big thank you.

Derian: Asked how the fleet had found this year's new approach of sailors measuring each others' boats, rather than using a separate measurement team. The general consensus was that the fleet liked this approach.

b. New website

This topic was covered in the Chairman's report.

c. FI Discussion topics (carbon poles and tiller extensions)

The proposal to allow twin spinnaker poles has been rejected by FI.

Derian explained that Tom Egli mentioned he has developed a new single pole system, which is similar to the Rees-Sayce pole, but less expensive to manufacture. Tom has invited anyone interested to discuss the design with him.

Carbon poles & tiller extensions are due to be discussed at the 2019 Worlds in Montreal and we believe that there will be for a vote for approval from FI after this.

Trials of using longer battens in the bottom of the mainsail are ongoing.

AOB:

Derian: Highlighted the generous support that that Fireball events had from our sponsors: Gul, UK Global, Ropelocker, P&B. Derian encouraged sailors to use these companies to reciprocate. Additionally, Gul has been very supportive & will provide prizes for the 2019 Inland Championships. The class is looking to renew its sponsorship deal with Gul. UK Global has provided 2 vouchers covering annual insurance for a Fireball at this year's Nationals.

Richard Botting: Invited everyone to attend the forthcoming Inlands Championships at Draycote Water SC

No other business raised.